

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 19 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 – 19 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1 – 19 are amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 19 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-3

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatake et al. (“Yatake”) (EP Patent No. 0978547) in view of Arita (JP Patent No. 10-158551). Although, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been at the basis of this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a recording liquid deposited on a support in the state of liquid droplets for recording thereon. The recording liquid comprises a colorant material, a solvent for dispersing said colorant material, and an ethylene oxide adduct of a dihydric alcohol, containing a hydrocarbon group with 9 or less carbon atoms and having a ratio I/O of an inorganic value (IV) to an organic value (OV) not less than 1 and not larger than 1.37.

That is, the ethylene oxide adduct of a dihydric alcohol contains a hydrocarbon group with 9 or less carbon atoms and has a ratio I/O of an inorganic value (IV) to an organic value (OV) not less than 1 and not larger than 1.37.

The Examiner acknowledges that Yatake fails to teach or suggest that an ethylene oxide adduct of a dihydric alcohol has a ratio I/O of an inorganic value (IV) to an organic value (OV) not less than 1 and not larger than 1.37, but asserts that Arita does by pointing to the Abstract and Paragraphs [0012] – [0024].

However, Arita states in the Abstract that (emphasis added):

"In ink set for ink jet recording comprising ink for recording having N colors forming image on a material to be recorded, moving ratio (Rf value) of dye contained in ink for each recording having $\geq(N-1)$ colors in ink set for ink jet recording is controlled to 0.5-0.8 and further, inorganic value/organic value (I/O value) of dyes in ink for each recording is at least 1-3 or difference of I/O value of each dye is at least ≥ 0.8 or difference between I/O value of ink liquid after removing dye from ink and I/O value of dye is at least ≥ 0.8 or difference between I/O value of dye and I/O value of the material to be recorded is at least within 0.3 or when the material to be recorded is paper, I/O value of dye is preferably at least 2.3-3.1."

Thus, Arita discloses ratios I/O inorganic values IV to organic values OV for dyes (color material) and differences between I/O ratios for dyes, ink liquid after removal of the dyes, and material to be recorded on, such as paper. As such, Arita fails to teach or suggest an ethylene oxide adduct of a dihydric alcohol having a ratio I/O of an inorganic value (IV) to an organic value (OV) not less than 1 and not larger than 1.37. Hence, Yatake and Arita may not properly be combined to reject Claim 1.

Therefore, Claim 1 is patentable over Yatake and Arita, taken singly or in combination with each other, as are dependent Claims 2 and 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this claim rejection be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 5 – 7 and 9

Claims 5-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatake et al. (EP Patent No. 0978547) in view of Arita (JP Patent No. 10-158551). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 recites the same distinguishable limitation as that of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 5 is also patentable over Yatake and Arita, as are dependent Claims 6-7 and 9, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this claim rejection be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 10 – 12, 14 – 17 and 19

Claims 10-12, 14-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatake et al. (EP Patent No. 0978547) in view of Arita (JP Patent No. 10-158551). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claims 10 and 15 recite the same distinguishable limitation as that of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 10 and 15 are also patentable over Yatake and Arita, as are corresponding dependent Claims 11-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this claim rejection be withdrawn.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 4, 8, 13 and 18

Claims 4, 8, 13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatake et al. (EP Patent No. 0978547) in view of Arita (JP Patent No. 10-158551) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19 above, and further in view of Yatake ("Yatake '0075421") (U.S. Publication No. 2005-0075421). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 4, 8, 13 and 18 are dependent on Claims 1, 5, 10 and 15 shown above to be patentable over Yatake and Arita. Moreover, in addition to Yatake and Arita Yatake '0075421 also fails to teach or disclose an ethylene oxide adduct of a dihydric alcohol having a ratio I/O of an inorganic value (IV) to an organic value (OV) not less than 1 and not larger than 1.37. Thus,

Claims 1, 5, 10 and 15 are patentable over these three references, taken singly or in combination with each other, as are dependent Claims 4, 8, 13 and 18, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this claim rejection be withdrawn.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1 – 19 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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